

CLAIMS:

1. An article comprising an electrochemical sensor strip having circuits comprising electrodes in an electrode region connected to contact pads in a contact region by conductive
5 traces wherein the electrode region is off-set from the contact region in both an x direction parallel to the length of the sensor strip and a y direction parallel to the width of the sensor strip.
2. The article of claim 1 wherein at least one circuit is L-shaped.
10
3. The article of claim 1 wherein at least one trace has at least one 90° bend.
4. The article of claim 1 wherein the electrode region and contact region are off-set such that they form an L shape, the interior of which shape forms an edge of the sensor strip and
15 wherein the electrode region protrudes beyond the contact region in the x direction.
5. The article of claim 1 wherein the circuits are located in an active portion and the article further comprises an inactive portion.
- 20 6. The article of claim 5 wherein the inactive portion comprises a handling tab.
7. The article of claim 6 wherein the handling tab is bent at one or both ends.
8. The article of claim 6 wherein the handling tab is textured.
25
9. The article of claim 5 wherein the active portion is about 3 mm to about 10 mm wide and about 5 mm to about 25 mm long.
10. An article comprising an electrochemical sensor strip comprising
30 a backing material,

an active portion laminated to a portion of the backing material,
the active portion comprising
a substrate,

a circuit comprising electrodes in an electrode region connected to contact pads in a
5 contact region by conductive traces wherein the electrode region is off-set from the contact
region in both an x direction parallel to the length of the sensor strip and a y direction parallel
to the width of the sensor strip,

a polymeric layer comprising a channel-forming material over the electrodes, and
a hydrophilic layer over the channel-forming material.

10

11. The article of claim 10 wherein a reagent layer is applied on the electrodes.

12. The article of claim 1 further comprising a fluid-wicking channel that extends across
the length of the electrode region and wherein the length of the electrode region is less than
15 one-half of the width of the circuit.

15

13. The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel terminates at one end with a
fluid sample entrance, wherein the fluid sample entrance traverses the end of the fluid-
wicking channel at an angle of less than 90°.

20

14. The article of claim 13 wherein the angle is 45°.

15. The article of claim 14 wherein the fluid sample entrance is 1.4 times an entrance that
intersects the fluid-wicking channel at an angle of 90°.

25

16. The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel is open to the atmosphere at
both ends.

17. The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel transports fluid to the
30 electrodes by capillary action.

30

18. The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel has a volume of less than about one microliter.

5 19. The article of claim 1 wherein the sensor strip is a blood glucose sensor strip.

20. An article comprising a blood glucose test kit comprising the electrochemical sensor strip of claim 19 and a glucose measuring device having a slot that receives the sensor strip article wherein when the sensor strip is fully inserted into the slot the electrode region of the
10 sensor remains outside of the slot.